

# TOWN OF MENOMONIE

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NEWS LETTER

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September 2019

Newsletter from your Chairman and Board

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## **NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION FOR REFERENDUM** **NOVEMBER 19, 2019**

The Town of Menomonie has balanced our budgets for numerous years and had enough carry over for the following year. The only way we have been able to accomplish this was by reducing our road maintenance, i.e. road construction, seal coating and asphalt repair. This year needed approximately \$100,000 for these repairs. In 2018 we had to borrow \$36,000 to make it through the end of the year. We expect to borrow this year to be able to make bills by 2020.

This doesn't take into consideration our general road maintenance such as plowing and sanding roads, fixing wash outs, purchasing salt sand and general maintenance of our machinery.

The reason for other short falls is that we have to provide health and safety resources to our constituents such as fire protection and ambulance. These fees continue to increase each year (Example: per capita fees for ambulance service increases 25¢ each year. We have a population of 3500 people in our town).

Asphalt costs continue to rise. We use to cover a mile of road with asphalt for around \$30,000. Now the cost is around \$100,000 a mile. Wages, health and benefits for our employees continue to increase along with liability insurance for our employees, buildings and equipment.

We have one of the smallest mill rates for any municipality in the County. In 2018 our mill rate for Town of Menomonie was \$1.52 per \$1,000 of assessed value. As you know, we cannot control School, County and Tech School assessments on your property.

**It brings now to you as a tax payer to raise our taxes on our property to provide adequate services to our residents. We are asking for \$125,000 to be added on our tax levy in 2019 for general road maintenance and repairs for 2019 and to continue on an ongoing basis. On the ballot it shows a 43.83% increase. This is not a 43.83% increase in property taxes! Keep in mind that we are asking for only \$125,000.00 in additional taxes. Our new tax levy would be \$410,143.00. Our tax levy for 2019 is now set at \$285,143.00. The difference is \$125,000.00. Please vote for the additional monies on November 19, 2019.**

**2019 SUMMER ROAD MAINTENANCE:** We replaced a box culvert this year in excess of \$80,000, another large culvert \$4,800.00 and \$100,000 for a mile of asphalt. We also completed some seal coating and grader patching.

**ANIMAL CONTROL:** Please keep your pets on your property. Pick up after them. **Wild and stray cats may be live trapped and taken to the Human Society.** We do not pick up dogs or cats. If you capture one you may take it to the Humane Society stating you are from the Town of Menomonie. **The Sheriff's Department will pick up captured dogs in some cases.**

**FIRE CALLS / AMBULANCE CALLS:** Our 2019 budget for ambulance fees for town residents is \$72,355, which is paid to the City of Menomonie. This was an increase of \$1,036. Citizens still have to pay for services when used. This is to insure we have ambulance services for our residents. Fire District fees for 2019 are \$56,591, which is used for expenses to the City of Menomonie, vehicle maintenance of the rural equipment, inspections and fire calls. This is an increase of \$4,964.00 .If fire services are used, residents have to pay up to \$500.00 per call.

**ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAYS:** The town has jurisdiction **33 feet** from the center of the roadway. **Winter Lawn stakes** will not be honored because we have to remove the snow from the traveled portion of the roadway.